

Applicants: Trammel II et al.
Application No.: 10/812,623
Filing Date: March 30, 2004
Docket No.: P-5752 (102-640)
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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9-13 and 18-19 are in the application. Claims 2-5 have been incorporated into claim 1, and, accordingly, claims 2-5 have been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended to change its dependency from claim 5 to claim 1. Claim 7 has been re-written into independent form. Claim 9 has been re-written into independent form and incorporates the limitations of previous claim 1 and claim 8. In view of this Amendment, claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 18 has also been re-written into independent form.

In view of a previous election, claims 14-17 and 19-24 were withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 14-17 and 20-24 have been cancelled. Claim 19 remains in the application and is labeled with a claim status identifier as being "Original", not "Withdrawn". In view of the indication of allowability of claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 should be re-introduced into the application and retracted from its withdrawn status.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Locke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,782,035). The Examiner also indicated in the Official Action that claims 5-7, 9-13 and 18 include patentable subject matter.

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Through this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-5. It is, thus, respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, along with dependent claim 6, are patentable over Locke et al.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 7, 9 and 18 are also patentable, along with dependent claims 10-13 and 19, respectively.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions or if additional information is required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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